EDITORIAL

WELL FOR ROOSEVELT!

By DANIEL DE LEON

The answer given in Bridgeport, Conn., by the Bull Moose Presidential candidate to the question put to him by the Kangaroo, alias Socialist party, of that State, on the subject of the unemployed was a bull’s-eye hit.

Said Roosevelt: “The Socialist party in this letter ask me what we intend to do with the problem of unemployment. In the first place, I know of no practical plan that the Socialist party itself has for dealing with the problems.”

A bull’s-eye, said we? Nay, it is a double bull’s-eye. It is a solar plexus, administered at once to both Bullmoosia and Kangaroosia.

That Kangaroosia has no practical, indeed, no plan whatever on unemployment, Socialist party literature amply attests, and anyone familiar with the same surely knows.

Socialist party propaganda teaches the droll economics that “the workers pay the taxes.” The practical results that such nonsense leads the S.P. to are illustrated in Schenectady. Elsewhere in this issue will be found in full the article “Schenectady the Unripe” by Walter Lippmann, ex-Executive Secretary of the S.P. Mayor of that city, the Rev. Dr. Lunn, and which we reproduce from the Call of last June 9. The article is a matchless picture of S.P. star-gazing in general. Among the points it covers is the incapacity of the S.P. municipal administration of Schenectady to keep its promises owing to its poverty, which is due to its all-absorbing effort “to keep down taxes.”

Roosevelt’s answer reveals intimate acquaintance with the taxation theory of the S.P., and the theory’s workings in Schenectady and Milwaukee. Of course the S.P. can have declamation only on unemployment. A party, that teaches that the

1 [See page 3 for reprint from Weekly People of September 21, 1912]
working class pays the taxes, can surely not be expected to pile upon its dearly beloved and already overburdened proletariat the additional load of extra taxes—the only practical means wherewith to tackle the problem of unemployment as an “immediate demand.” Roosevelt’s answer is a knock-out blow to the S.P. questioner.

But Roosevelt simultaneously dealt his own Progressive party a knock-out blow with the identical blow that he knocked out the S.P. on the vital subject of unemployment.

Whatever it may say here, there, or yonder—Bullmoosia knows that the taxes are paid by the property-holding, by the labor-exploiting class—Bullmoosia knows that taxes come from that portion of the wealth produced by, but never pocketed by labor—Bullmoosia knows that taxes come out of profits—Bullmoosia is well aware that, in America, any increase of taxation spells a decrease of the profits reserved for use by the class whom to save Bullmoosia has flung its hat in the ring. Accordingly[,] apart from the circumstance that unemployment is necessary for the existence of capitalism, the Progressive party need not be expected to drain the profit-coffers of its class with the taxation that the immediate tackling of unemployment would demand.

Roosevelt’s answer makes it clear to the unemployed(—)and also to the employed to whom unemployment is a scourge—that there is no balm for them in the Gilead of either Bullmoosia, or Kangaroosia. Both have their faces set for low, and still lower taxes—the former, because it knows that the Capitalist Class pays the taxes; the latter, because it is either ignorant enough to believe, or demagogic enough to pretend to believe[,] that the Working Class pays the taxes.
SCHENECTADY THE UNEPRA

By Walter Lippman in N.Y. City, May 23 of 1912.

A word of speculative explanation is necessary to the understanding of this story. Lippman was in New York City when he wrote it, and the date is June 9, 1912.

He went to Schenectady for some reason, and he describes his experience there. He writes about the workers, the politicians, and the local culture. He also talks about the history of the town and its relationship with the rest of the country.

In the story, Lippman talks about the contrast between the political scene and the social scene. He writes about the Schenectady Labor News Company, which was established in 1911.

The story is rich in detail and provides a snapshot of life in Schenectady at the time. It is an interesting read for anyone interested in history or social commentary.